



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

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### **Library Receives Important Music-Related Collection, Including Rare Vocal Scores**

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library recently received a large collection of music-related materials from the estate of Mary Evans Johnson. The collection, which includes biographies, analytical studies and printed music scores, was donated to the Library courtesy of the Friends of the Central Library.

Ms. Johnson, a former concert pianist and teacher at the Juilliard School, was the great-granddaughter of Samuel Church Smith, who built a family home in Carlsbad in 1887 – the historic Smith-Shipley-Magee House.

Of special interest in the collection are three rare vocal scores from the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. A vocal score contains all of the vocal parts of a musical work, with the orchestral part arranged for piano for rehearsal purposes. One score is of the opera *La Clemenza di Tito* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-91). Mozart finished composing the opera in 1791, the year of his death. The score contains the original Italian libretto with a German translation, and was published in Hamburg, Germany, probably in the 1790s, just after Mozart's death. The score contains some particularly nice examples of music engraving, which was the preferred method of printing music during the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The other two compositions are sacred oratorios by Joseph Haydn (1732-1809), for solo voices, chorus and orchestra. The vocal score for Haydn's *Stabat Mater*, which he completed in 1767, was published in 1781. The other work is one of Haydn's masterpieces, *Die Schöpfung* ("The

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Creation”), composed from 1796 to 1798. The vocal score for *Die Schöpfung* was probably published in the early 1800s. The scores of both Haydn compositions were published in Leipzig, Germany.

Johnson’s collection also shows a keen interest in the life and music of Robert and Clara Schumann, 19<sup>th</sup> century German composers and one of the most famous couples in the history of music.

“The San Diego Public Library is very pleased to acquire such a wealth of music materials from the collection of Mary Evans Johnson,” said City Library Director Anna Tatár. “We are especially delighted to have the opportunity to add the three rare publications of the music of Mozart and Haydn.”

The Central Library’s Art, Music and Recreation Section has nearly 10,000 music compact discs, ranging from rock to classical, as well as a collection of scores (sheet music) that numbers more than 14,650 items.

For information about these and other rare materials, contact the Central Library’s Wangenheim Room at 619-236-5807. For questions about music books, scores and recordings, contact the Library’s Art, Music and Recreation Section at 619-236-5810.

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